



Strengthening global environmental governance in an interconnected world



ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

In our globalized world, environmental threats - particularly those that cross political borders - will require effective responses that are also inclusive and sustainable and go hand in hand with peace, justice and development.

UNEP promotes sound environmental governance – the rules, practices, policies and institutions that shape how humans interact with the environment – to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and strengthen the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Working alongside our partners – including UN institutions, MEA secretariats, regional organizations, national governments, universities, NGOs and the private sector – we promote smart environmental laws and policies and help countries implement them successfully.

Coherence & synergy

UNEP aims to ensure that the many organizations that work on issues that affect the environment do so in a streamlined and integrated, coherent way.

Laws & institutions

UNEP works to enhance countries' capacities to develop, implement and enforce legal and institutional frameworks to address environmental priorities and challenges. We also support the coherent implementation of MEAs.

Mainstreaming the environment

UNEP helps countries integrate the environment into their development and sector-level policies, plans and budgets, including those on poverty reduction.

15 COUNTRIES
FINALIZED UN
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
FRAMEWORKS
THAT INCORPORATED
THE PRINCIPLES OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY

32 COUNTRIES
PLEGGED
TOUGHER ACTION
ON ILLEGAL
WILDLIFE
TRADE 

Tracking environmental crime

Illegal practices like the dumping of toxic waste, trafficking of endangered animals, and illegal logging, mining and fishing are increasingly recognized as a global crisis. Transnational organized environmental crime has been estimated at between \$70 billion and \$213 billion annually. Compare that to the total figure for global foreign aid, which is roughly \$135 billion a year. A 2014 UNEP-INTERPOL report on the state of environmental crime revealed that current responses were falling short and recommended concrete steps that governments can take to stop the criminal networks that profit from these crimes. Working with key partners, UNEP is leading efforts to address the root causes of environmental crime around the world.

Greening the UN System

UNEP is leading efforts to develop a framework to ensure that all UN agencies align their strategies to tackle the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. UNEP serves as an environmental advisor to UN entities and plays an important role in the UN's interagency mechanisms, including the Environment Management Group. Thanks to UNEP's support, 21 UN organizations are now working to become climate neutral, up from six in 2013. Eighteen of those organizations now have emissions reduction strategies and five have fully fledged environmental management systems.

Environmental sustainability and the rule of law

UNEP spearheads efforts to ground environmental governance in the rule of law. We promote fair, clear and implementable environmental laws; public participation and access to justice and information; accountability and integrity of institutions; clear institutional mandates and roles; and the mutually supportive relationship between human rights and the environment. We promote ownership of the environmental cause among legislators and stronger capacities to comply with and enforce environmental obligations.



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Our Plan

UNEP is uniquely positioned to help countries set up the policy, legal and institutional measures they need to achieve the SDGs and other global environmental goals through a suite of services in partnership with other UN agencies. For example, an investment of \$2 million over four years can result in:

- Changes in policies, plans and budgets to address poverty-environment objectives or environmental law reforms, in up to four countries;
- Integrating environmental sustainability in over 20 UN sustainable development planning frameworks;
- Increased seizures of illegally traded goods through support to a regional enforcement network;
- 3,000 users completing online courses on MEAs.

With an investment of \$10 million to \$20 million, we can run a four-year programme to support 20 countries in setting up the governance foundations for achieving the environment-related SDGs. With significantly less, we can build knowledge or catalyze consensus around emerging issues.

Contact:

Cristina Zucca
Coordinator, Environmental Governance
Subprogramme
cristina.zucca@unep.org
+254.207.625.256
www.unep.org/
environmentalgovernance